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Site:	Martha C. Rose
ID#	MOD980633069
Break:	13.3
Other:	10/4/88

For immediate release  
October 27, 1988

18 Million Pounds of PCB Materials  
Removed from Holden, Missouri, Site

More than 18 million pounds of materials contaminated by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) have been removed from the Martha C. Rose Chemicals facility in Holden, Mo.

The cleanup was carried out by a "steering committee" of 17 of the approximately 750 companies and other entities, such as municipalities and schools, that sent PCBs to the Rose plant for disposal.

The next step is a 16-month study to determine if any further cleanup measures are needed to decontaminate the 13-acre facility. The study began in September.

"The Rose Chemicals Steering Committee hopes that communities - like Holden - and organizations - such as those that sent PCBs to Rose thinking the materials would be safely disposed of -- are not drawn into a situation like this again," Jene L. Robinson, chair of the Rose Steering Committee said.

"Both Holden and the parties sending materials to the site for disposal have been unfairly hurt. It is unfortunate that Martha C.  
(over)

slug: rosepress



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SUPERFUND RECORDS

Martin C. Rose  
MIL 93/633069  
13.3

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Rose Chemicals Co. is not still in business so that Holden could seek some sort of retribution for having to go through this drama," said Robinson, who is manager of environmental affairs, Illinois Power Co., Decatur, Ill.

"However, as a result of the Steering Committee actions, Holden citizens will not have a health concern on the edge of the city," Robinson continued.

The removal of PCBs from the Rose facility was conducted under the supervision of the Environmental Protection Agency and in accord with the requirements outlined in an administrative order on consent issued by EPA October 1987. Further cleanup activities needed at Rose would be the subject of an additional administrative order negotiated by the responsible parties and EPA.

Pending the results of the study, the Rose facility will remain secured.

Clean Sites, an independent non-profit organization dedicated solely to speeding cleanup of hazardous waste sites, was retained by the involved parties to assist in organizational, administrative, and cleanup management activities. Rollins Environmental Services (FS) Inc. was retained by the Steering Committee to remove the PCB materials from the site. Robin Robinson, of Clean Sites, directed this effort.

See the attached fact sheet for more information.

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Martha C. Rose Chemicals Site  
Fact Sheet #7  
October 1988

History

The Martha C. Rose Chemicals Co. site is an abandoned facility that treated and disposed of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The 13-acre site, located in Holden, Mo., about 30 miles southeast of Kansas City, Mo., contained more than 18 million pounds of materials contaminated by PCBs, which made it probably the largest PCB-contamination site in the country.

The facility operated from 1982 to 1986 on property owned by the city of Holden, in two warehouses leased from Lear-Siegler Corp. In March 1986, Rose notified its customers and the federal Environmental Protection Agency that it had no money and was abandoning the facility.

After Rose failed to comply with cleanup orders issued by EPA, 17 of the facility's customers formed a "steering committee," which stepped forward in November 1986 to undertake the cleanup. Operating under administrative orders on consent negotiated with EPA, the steering committee member organizations: (1) removed flammables, fenced and secured the site, (2) conducted sampling and inventoried the contaminated materials, and (3) removed 18-million pounds of contaminated materials. All work was conducted under EPA supervision and in compliance with local, state, and federal requirements.

Meanwhile, the steering committee notified Rose's estimated 750 other customers of their potential liability and proposed a method to fulfill their legal obligations by each paying their share of the cleanup costs. To date, 75 percent of the parties have responded to the proposal and paid their share of the costs.

The Martha C. Rose Chemicals Co. is in the midst of bankruptcy proceedings.

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### Removal of PCBs

As part of the cleanup 3.6 million pounds of debris, 1.9 million pounds of transformers, and 500,000 pounds of empty tanks were landfilled in a fully licensed facility in Alabama operated by Chemical Waste Management Inc. More than 1.5 million pounds of drummed contaminated liquids, 2.9 million pounds of bulk contaminated liquid, almost 1 million pounds of sludge and other contaminated liquids, and 4.4 million pounds of capacitors were incinerated at a Rollins Inc. facility in Texas.

Removal of some liquids began in August 1987; the bulk of the removal began in March of 1988 and ended in September 1988, about one-month ahead of schedule.

All soil surrounding the warehouses that has been identified as containing more than 10 parts per million of PCBs -- more than 2.5 million pounds -- is being landfilled in Alabama.

### Site Status and Studies of Residual Contamination

Pending the completion of the study and a plan to deal with the residual contamination, the site will remain secured. Several contaminated items, not sent by Rose customers, will remain on the site. They include two fork lifts, several barrels, pumps, and motors, a 50-foot boat, and an old automobile.

Flooring under the two warehouses and the insides of the warehouses themselves are contaminated by PCBs.

The cleanup study, known as a remedial investigation and feasibility study, will assess the contamination and will outline alternative remedies.

The study, which will be conducted by Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc., Kansas City, Mo., will include soil and groundwater sampling, and is expected to take 16 months to complete.

Cleanup options outlined in the study will be the subject of future negotiations by the parties and the government.

(more)



### PCBs

PCBs have been used as insulating and heat transfer material in electrical equipment, such as capacitors and transformers, for about 50 years. PCBs prevent the buildup of heat. Capacitors are devices used to control the power factor and voltage in electrical systems and to improve their efficiency. Transformers are used to change voltage.

Studies have shown that PCBs cause adverse health effects in animals and humans; specifically in humans, exposure has caused chloracne, a skin irritation. PCBs are bioaccumulated, that is they are retained and concentrated in human and animal tissue.

The Toxic Substances Control Act banned the manufacture of PCBs, and EPA has set a deadline of 1989 for electrical equipment containing PCBs to be removed from service.

### Costs

So far the Rose cleanup has cost about \$12 million. The cost of removing the 15 million pounds of PCB contaminated materials was \$8 million. Costs of stabilizing the site, sampling and inventorying the materials was \$4 million. The final decontamination could cost between \$5 million and \$20 million.

### Contacts & Information

EPA's ~~on scene coordinator~~ *Remedial Project Manager* for the site is Steve Kinser, EPA Region VII, Superfund Branch, 726 Minnesota Ave., Kansas City, Kan. 66101. (913) 236-2856.

Robin Robinson, Clean Sites Project Manager, can be contacted at Clean Sites at its headquarters in Alexandria, Va., at (703) 739 1232, or at the Rose site, at (816) 732-5529.

Information on the site, including work plans, administrative orders, fact sheets and sampling data, is located in a repository at the Holden City Hall. To look at the documents or copy them for a charge, contact Ms. Sheila Spies, City Clerk, 101 W. 3rd St., Holden, Mo. 64040; (816) 732-4811.